

Remarks

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 15 are amended and claim 13 is cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter was added by the amendment, as all of the amended matter was either previously illustrated or described in the drawings, written specification and/or claims of the present application. Entry of the amendment and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

First, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 6, 13, and 14. The Examiner has indicated that the prior art does not anticipate or render obvious the elements of claim 6 wherein the light source is designed in the shape of a ring surrounding the image sensor. The Examiner has also indicated that the prior art does not anticipate or render obvious the elements of claim 13 wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold value. The Examiner has further indicated that the prior art does not anticipate or render obvious the elements of claim 14 wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated only when image signals read-out during consecutive third time intervals differ by more than a second threshold value.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 15 in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim, original claim 1. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim, original claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 1, 11, and 15 have been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 13. The Examiner has indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if it were rewritten to include the elements of original claim 11, and Applicants have amended claim 11 accordingly. Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 1 and 15, which now include the elements of claim 13, are allowable.

Both claims 1 and 15, as amended, recite a camera module for electronically recording images, which includes an image sensor with a plurality of image cells, each image cell having a light-sensitive element for generating a light-dependent current in the image cells wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold value. As the Examiner has indicated, none of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest at least these elements of claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 15 as amended are novel, nonobvious, and patentable over the references of record.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 and 14-19, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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